

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-20, 27-29 and 34-39 are pending herein. Claims 1, 5, 21-26 and 30-33 have been canceled.

Original claims 1, 5, 21-26, 30-33 are canceled, and new claims 34-40 are added, in which:

Claim 34 corresponds to original claim 1,

Claim 38 corresponds to original claim 25, and

Claim 39 corresponds to original claim 26.

As claimed in claim 34 (new), a representative embodiment of the present invention is a printing system with a server and printer clients connected to the server through a network, the printer clients requesting the server to send data, the printing system comprising:

the server comprising:

an acquiring section to acquire information regard to security level of a printer client which requests the server to send data;

a specifying section to specify data to be sent correspond to the security level of the printer client;

a sending section to send the specified data to the printer client; and

the printer client comprising:

a receiving section to receive the specified data sent from the server; and

an output section to print out the received data.

According to the claims, when the printer client requests the server to send data, the server acquires the information regarding the security level of a printer client, and the server specifies the data to be sent corresponding to the security level of the printer client.

Herein, the server specifies the data among various kinds of data respectively different

in difficulty of restoration. This difficulty of restoration depends on alternation and method of extraction used for preparing the data from original data. While the security level or the copyright protection level of a printer client depends on the system and hardware of the printer client, for example whether a protection cover is installed, or exclusive hardware is utilized.

According to the claims, the kind of data to be sent is specified corresponding to the security level of the printer client, for example when the security level of the printer client is high, the data of low difficulty of restoration may be specified to be sent. When the security level of the printer client is low, only the data of high difficulty of restoration may be specified to be sent.

In this way, the copyright protection is effectively performed even after the data is downloaded and decrypted (in case that the data is encrypted before sending) at the printer client.

The obviousness rejections based on Onodera et al (6,700,677) or Holmes et al (6,119,108) in view of Auerbach et al (5,673,316).

Original claims 1-33 stand rejected as being obvious over Onodera et al (6,700,677) or Holmes et al (6,119,108) in view Auerbach et al (5,673,316). The USPTO respectfully asserted that the difference between Onodera or Holmes and the claims is the use of specific portions for copyright control, e.g., abstract. However, according to the newly proposed claim 34, the difference is not the use of an abstract. It is respectfully asserted that the absolutely different portion is that none of the cited references does not disclose or suggest the characteristic portion of the present claim, that is, "the server acquires the information

Case No. KOT-0039
Serial No. 10/077,635
Client Ref No. KPD-5007(US)

regarding the security level of a printer client, and the server specifies the data to be sent correspond to the security level of the printer client."

Auerbach discloses a technology to utilize cryptographic envelopes. According to Auerbach, the envelope is an aggregation of information parts, where each of the parts to be protected are encrypted with a corresponding parts encryption key. And the parts encryption key is delivered at the time of delivering encrypted digital document (information parts) to a user. This is quite a different technology from the present claims.

The other references cited are also quite different from claim 34.

As described above, according to the present claims, "when the printer client requests the server to send data, the server acquires the information regarding the security level of a printer client, and the server specifies the data to be sent corresponding to the security level of the printer client", therefore, the copyright protection is effectively performed according to the protection level of the printer client.

Conclusion.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please call the undersigned for any reason. Applicant seeks to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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Note: USPTO s-sign was
used above
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Case No. KOT-0039
Serial No. 10/077,635
Client Ref No. KPD-5007(US)

12